Message Text

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT:NATO PATROL HYDROFOIL MISSILE (NATO PHM)

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- 1. SUBSEQUENT TO THE TRANSMISSION OF REFTEL, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TERMINATION OF THE NATO PHM PROGRAM AND THE DISCUSSIONS REQUESTED WERE CANCELLED.
- 2. CONGRESSIONAL ACTION HAS, HOWEVER, REQUIRED THE

REINSTATEMENT OF PHM PRODUCTION. THE US NAVY IS NOW UNDER CONTRACT AND FULLY COMMITTED TO A STAND-ALONE PRODUCTION OF THE FIVE ADDITIONAL PHM'S, TO BE DELIVERED IN THE 1981/1982 TIME FRAME. THE PROTOTYPE AND LEAD PHM, USS PEGASUS (PHM-1) WAS DELIVERED TO THE NAVY IN JUNE 1977 AND COMMISSIONED AS A WARSHIP ON 9 JULY. THIS SHIP HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO TWO RIGOROUS AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL MATERIAL AND PERFORMANCE INSPECTIONS AND HAS BEEN OPERATING FOR EIGHT MONTHS AS A COMBAT UNIT OF THE US PACIFIC FLEET. THE SHIP HAS MET OR EXCEEDED EARLY TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS. INITIAL PLANNING COMMENCED EARLY THIS YEAR FOR NEAR TERM EXERCISES WITH OTHER NATO NAVIES AND ULTIMATELY TO HOMEPORT THE ENTIRE PHM SQUADRON IN THE

MEDITERRANEAN. OTHER BACKGROUND PROVIDED IN REFERENCE REMAINS VALID.

3. IN THE INTEREST OF INCREASING THE DEGREE OF STANDARDIZATION AND COMMONALITY BETWEEN NATO NAVIES, AS WELL AS REDUCTION OF UNIT PROCUREMENT COSTS, WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATION IN PHM PRODUCTION. FURTHER, RECENT DOLLAR DEVALUATIONS WITH RESPECT TO SOME NATIONAL CURRENCIES MAY MAKE SUCH PARTICIPATION MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN MAY HAVE BEEN THE CASE IN PAST YEARS.

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4. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS REQUESTED THAT, AS APPROPRIATE, YOU ADVISE DEFENSE PERSONNEL OF THE CURRENT PHM STATUS AND THAT THE USN IS PREPARED TO ENTER INTO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON THE POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATIVE NATO PHM PRODUCTION.

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